

POTOMAC AND RAPPAHANNOCK
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (PRTC)

OFFICIAL COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

DATE: January 8, 2009

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: PRTC Transit Center
14700 Potomac Mills Road, 2nd Floor
Woodbridge, VA 22192-6811

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

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| *Maureen Caddigan | Prince William County |
| *John Jenkins | Prince William County |
| *Frank Jones, Chairman | City of Manassas Park |
| *Corey Hill | DRPT |
| *Scott Lingamfelter | Virginia House of Delegates |
| *Michael May, Treasurer | Prince William County |
| *Paul Milde, Immediate Past Chmn | Stafford County |
| *Martin Nohe | Prince William County |
| *Frank Principi | Prince William County |
| *George Schwartz | Stafford County |
| *Jonathan Way, Vice Chairman | City of Manassas |

ALTERNATES PRESENT

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| Jean Benson | City of Fredericksburg |
| *Brad Ellis | City of Fredericksburg |
| *Corey Stewart | Prince William County |

STAFF AND GENERAL PUBLIC

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| Gina Altis | PRTC Executive Assistant |
| Tom Cain | FIRST TRANSIT Region Vice President |
| Doris Chism | PRTC Dir., Customer Service & Dispatch |
| Aroni El | Citizen |

Joyce Embrey
Althea Evans
Sandy Ferris
Anthony Foster
Holly Frisch
Shanta Garth
Al Harf
Steve Hastalis
Ross Horton
Robb Howell
Todd Johnson
Bill Leisen
Bob Leibbrandt
Steve MacIsaac
Mary Marshall
Eric Marx
Betsy Massie
Suhas Naddoni
Paul Pitchke
Debbie Powell
Chuck Steigerwald
Francis Setash
Jennifer Straub
Dave Tyeryar
Clint Wade
Dale Zehner

MEMBERS ABSENT

Wally Covington
Matthew Kelly, Secretary
Jackson Miller
Toddy Puller

ALTERNATES ABSENT

Charles Badger
Harry Crisp
Mark Dudenhefer
Peter LaMarca
Lorraine Lasch
Hal Parrish
Sorine Preli
Phillip Rodenberg
John Stirrup
William Wren

PRTC Dir., Finance & Administration
PRTC Dir., Marketing & Communications
Citizen
PRTC Transportation Project Manager
Citizen
FIRST TRANSIT AGM-Accounting & Admin.
PRTC Executive Director
Citizen
PRTC Legal Counsel
FIRST TRANSIT General Manager
FIRST TRANSIT Maintenance Manager
PRTC Mgr., Contract Operations
PWC Budget & Analysis
VRE Legal Counsel
PRTC Account & Budget Manager
PRTC Dir., Planning & Operations
PRTC Dir., Grants & Project Management
MANASSAS PARK City Councilmember
FIRST TRANSIT AGM-Operations
Citizen
PRTC Senior Transit Planner
PRTC Technical Support Specialist
VRE Deputy Chief Executive Officer
PWC Dir., Budget & Analysis
PRTC Rideshare Specialist/CSA
VRE Chief Executive Officer

Prince William County
City of Fredericksburg
Virginia House of Delegates
Virginia Senate

DRPT
Stafford County
Stafford County
City of Fredericksburg
Prince William County
City of Manassas
Prince William County
City of Fredericksburg
Prince William County
City of Manassas Park

*Voting Member

- | | | |
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| 3. | INVOCATION | Led by Vice Chairman Way. |
| 4. | PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE | Led by Commissioner May. |
| 5. | CITIZENS' TIME | |

Ms. Debbie Powell, Haymarket, Virginia, voiced her concern about chronic overcrowding/standees on the Manassas OmniRide route and cited several incidents where passengers have been left at bus stops. She recommended buses be added to the route to alleviate the situation and that PRTC increase communications to the passengers.

Mr. Aroni El, Woodbridge, Virginia. Mr. El stated that at the September 3, 2008 PRTC public hearing regarding the "Proposed Bus Fare Increase and Fare Indexing Policy" he opposed the proposed bus fare increase and recommended that the Commission revisit the issue after November 2008. With the implementation of the fare increase and the decline in fuel prices, Mr. El questioned what passengers will receive for their money. He went on to ask about PRTC's protocol to add bus stops to the bus routes and noted that he has lodged several complaints, but the complaints cannot be located when he meets face-to-face with a supervisor. He also recommended that some type of "markings" be placed on the ground in front of the public restrooms located outside the Transit Center to maintain order for people waiting in line to use the restrooms.

No other citizens came forward.

- ## 6. PRESENTATIONS

- [First Transit\Info] A. First Transit General Manager Robb Howell – Employee Recognition and Operations Report.**

Mr. Howell reported that the December 2008 Operator-of-the-Month Robert Magruder is not present this evening. Mr. Magruder has been a bus operator since November 2007 and currently operates bus service on one of the Dale City OmniRide routes.

Mr. Howell reported that 23 commendations (directed to 15 different bus operators and three supervisors) were received during the month of December. He noted that supervisors are making an effort to be more visible on the streets particularly at the Pentagon and in Washington, D.C. to address overcrowding concerns. He went on to note that the accident frequency rate during the month of December was .69 per 100,000 miles and the year-to-date rate is 1.38 compared to 1.58 for the same period last year.

Mr. Howell observed that the December System Performance and Ridership Report reflects a “spike” in customer complaint rates for both the OmniRide and OmniLink bus service and noted that staff is handling this as a top priority to reverse it. The complaint rate on the OmniRide service is 10.37% per 10,000 passengers compared to the prior month rate at

5.6%. The complaint rate on the OmniLink service increased to 6.09% though the year-to-date statistics on both bus services remain below the prior year.

Chairman Jones inquired about the basis of the complaints (i.e. service related, etc.) and asked if any of the complaints are justified. Mr. Howell explained that most of the complaints are justified in that the complaints are experiential (e.g., overcrowding, operator unfamiliarity, etc.), but further fact-finding is necessary to provide a complete diagnosis and set of remedies. Mr. Howell went on to observe that the spike comes right on the heels of a schedule change, operator pick, and fare increase, all of which surely contributed.

Commissioner Way asked if First Transit routinely analyzes/reports the number of standees and people left at bus stops to assess the need for additional capacity. Mr. Howell noted that the bus operators report to dispatch the number of standees on board the bus when overcrowding occurs. Mr. Harf explained that load factors are routinely tracked, but a more elusive number is the number of passengers left at the stop (either because there is no more room aboard the bus for standees or because some passengers opted to wait for a less crowded bus). He cited the last bus stop in Washington, D.C. (14th and Independence) as a prime example, and observed that PRTC does supplemental field work to assess conditions like this if they appear to be chronic. He went on to explain that if chronic overcrowding does occur on a particular trip, PRTC schedules an additional trip (resources permitting) or adjusts the schedule to remedy it.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RES 09-01-01 Minutes of December 4, 2008.
[PRTC\Minutes]

Commissioner Caddigan moved, with a second by Commissioner Milde, to approve the Minutes as presented. There was no discussion on the motion. (CADDIGAN\MILDE, WITH MAJORITY VOTE AYE; LINGAMFELTER/NOHE ABSTAINED)

8. AGENDA APPROVAL

RES 09-01-02 Agenda of January 8, 2009.
[PRTC\Agenda]

Commissioner Caddigan moved, with a second by Commissioner Jenkins, to approve the Agenda as amended. Chairman Jones moved Item 6-B – PRTC FY 2010 Budget – Preliminary Observations PowerPoint presentation to follow the VRE Proposed FY 2010 Budget Powerpoint presentation. There was no discussion on the motion. (CADDIGAN\JENKINS, UNANIMOUS)

9. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

RES 09-02-03 Consent Agenda of January 8, 2009.
[PRTC\Consent Agenda]

Vice Chairman Way made a motion, with a second by Commissioner May, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. (WAY\MAY, UNANIMOUS)

RES 09-01-04 A. Treasurer's Report.
[PRTC\Finance]

Approved the Treasurer's Report of October 31, 2008. (WAY\MAY, UNANIMOUS)

RES 09-01-05 B. Budget and Appropriate \$425,000 of the City of Manassas
[Manassas] Gas Tax Funds for Transportation Projects in the City and
Unappropriate \$325,000 of the City of Manassas Gas Tax
Funds from the FY 2009 Street Paving Program.

Authorized the expenditure of \$425,000 of the City of Manassas's 2% motor fuels tax funds for the Battle Street and warehouse facility projects and unappropriated \$325,000 for the FY 2009 Street Paving Program. (WAY\MAY, UNANIMOUS)

RES 09-01-06 C. Unappropriate \$250,000 of the City of Manassas Gas Tax
[Manassas] Funds for Dean Drive Extended Project.

Authorized the unappropriation of \$250,000 of the City of Manassas's 2% motor fuels tax funds for the Dean Drive extended project. (WAY\MAY, UNANIMOUS)

RES 09-01-07 D. Budget and Appropriate \$500,000 of the City of Manassas
[Manassas Park] Park's 2% Motor Fuels Tax Funds for the Manassas Drive
and Mathis Avenue Intersection Improvement Project.

Authorized the expenditure of \$500,000 of the City of Manassas Park's 2% motor fuels tax funds for the Manassas Drive and Mathis Avenue intersection improvement project. (WAY\MAY, UNANIMOUS)

10. VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS (VRE)

[VRE\Info] A. Operations Board Meeting Agenda and Minutes of
December 19, 2008. There were no comments.

[VRE\Info] B. Chief Executive Officer's Report (Dec 08).

At this time, Mr. Zehner made a PowerPoint presentation to provide the Commission with a fuller elaboration of the proposed VRE FY 2010 Budget. A question and answer discussion followed the presentation, as summarized below:

Delegate Lingamfelter: Has a comparative cost analysis been conducted as to what the daily average single commute would cost as compared to riding the VRE and, if so,

recommended that the VRE ridership be reminded of the cost savings riding the VRE versus driving. Mr. Zehner replied affirmatively.

Commissioner Ellis: Observed as a VRE rider that passengers are cost-sensitive, but not as sensitive as might be perceived. Not all costs can be captured, like the psychological comfort of being able to commute without the stress of driving and being able to use commuting time gainfully.

Commissioner Milde: How much revenue would be generated by the CAO Task Force's "fare increase" recommendation, and how does this square with the PowerPoint presentation's assertion about a reduction in ridership causing a \$1.35 million deficit? Mr. Zehner replied approximately \$400,000. Asked again to reconcile this with the PowerPoint assertion about a revenue loss, VRE's Deputy Executive Director Jennifer Straub said the revenue effect would be less than \$400,000 and both she and Mr. Zehner went on to discuss the substantial degree of uncertainty inherent in such projections, especially in light of the fact that fare increases of the magnitude enacted mid-year and proposed for FY 2010 are without precedent.

Commissioner Nohe: Observed that riders have different motivations for riding depending upon where they live, how far they travel, what their household incomes are, etc. Mr. Zehner concurred, noting that the Fredericksburg commute to Washington, D.C. captures 40-50% of the market because there is currently no competition from Fredericksburg except for vanpools and a limited number of buses. The commute from Burke captures about 3%, because it is closer-in and there are more choices (i.e., Metro, buses, vanpools, and HOV).

Commissioner Milde: Again questioned the PowerPoint assertion about a revenue loss, and asked for a further explanation. He asked whether the revenue loss appearing in the PowerPoint is simply the loss that would result if there were a 5% ridership loss and no fare increase. Mr. Zehner again replied that there is a substantial degree of uncertainty inherent in ridership/revenue projections stemming from fare increases, and noted management's reticence to assume that fare increases invariably result in revenue gains.

Delegate Lingamfelter: What amount of funding is needed at the state level to address VRE's immediate needs? Mr. Zehner replied \$4 million. Delegate Lingamfelter recommended that he and Mr. Zehner work together to produce a more explicit estimate.

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| [PRTC\FY2010 Budget] | FY 2010 Budget – Preliminary Observations by PRTC Executive Director Alfred Harf and Open Discussion. |
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At this time, Mr. Harf made a PowerPoint presentation to provide the Commission with FY 2010 Budget Preliminary Observations. A question and answer discussion followed the presentation, as summarized below:

Commissioner Nohe: How much of the drop in projected revenues for Prince William County is driven by fuel purchasing habits? Mr. Harf explained that there is a slight

diminution in fuel consumption within the state, and he estimated that over 90% of the drop can be attributed to price.

Delegate Lingamfelter: Observed that people are curtailing trips that they would normally make and tourism has lessened in the state. Chairman Jones noted that at the commencement of developing the budget figures, fuel was approaching \$4.00/gallon, so the figure were based on approximately \$3.00/gallon. Mr. Harf explained that the adopted five-year plan figures were not premised on \$4.00/gallon, but on figures significantly less than that. The figures are the latest projections provided by the Energy Information Administration which will change.

Commissioner Milde: What is the fuel price being used in the projections? Mr. Harf noted that the numbers embedded in the latest projections vary by year and on average are in the \$2.50/gallon range.

Commissioner Jenkins: Observed that the budget presentation assumes that there is no opportunity to legislatively change the 2% motor fuels tax rate and that there are no other prospective sources of funding relief. He went on to say that the General Assembly is currently looking at only one year and may start to look next year at how severe some of the problems are at which time the General Assembly may decide to change the 2% motor fuels tax rate. There may also be some initiatives with regard to taxation or revenue sources that will impact this directly. Mr. Harf agreed and explained that the presentation is deliberately crafted this way to show what would have to happen in lieu of state or federal help if the parameters governing the County's local participation in transit sponsorship remain unchanged. Commissioner Jenkins went on to say that transportation funding remains the responsibility of the state which needs to remain intact because the burden of taxation has been transferred to the citizens. Delegate Lingamfelter agreed, but noted it is unavoidable that there will be a federal/state local partnership in future transportation schemes.

Commissioner Milde: Stafford and Fredericksburg hope that a compromise (8% fare increase and a \$2.50/gallon diesel fuel VRE cost estimate) can be made, observing that to do so requires PRTC Board approval and reconsideration by the VRE Operations Board.

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| RES 09-01-08 | C. | Referral of the Revised FY 2009 and Recommended FY |
| [VREFY 2010 Budget] | | 2010 VRE Operating and Capital Budget Options to the |
| | | Commissions and Localities. |

Commissioner Jenkins moved, with a second by Commissioner Caddigan, to authorize and approve the proposed actions as described.

Commissioner Jenkins explained that the VRE FY 2010 budget has been approved by the VRE Operations Board and the action before the Commission this evening is to authorize forwarding the VRE budget to the local jurisdictions so that it can be incorporated into their prospective budgets. He went on to explain that Prince William County's budget will be presented to the Prince William Board of County Supervisors on February 17th for inclusion

of the proposed VRE budget. Currently, there is no time to remand the budget to the VRE Operations Board.

Delegate Lingamfelter agreed with Commissioner Jenkins and recommended that the VRE budget be in place so that he will be able to convey what needs to be fixed and that the budget process needs to move forward.

From a procedural perspective, Commissioner Nohe asked if a bigger problem will exist if the budget is remanded to the VRE Operations Board and doesn't move forward by February 1st or if the budget is forwarded to the jurisdictions and some of the jurisdictions remand the budget back to VRE. Mr. Zehner explained that a bigger problem will exist if the jurisdictions remand the budget. He went on to explain that NVTC's jurisdictions pay the VRE subsidy from "general fund revenue" and the entire 2% motor fuels tax goes to WMATA meaning that the two Commissions tend to view the budget differently. He recommended moving forward with the budget process and dealing with issues as they arise.

Commissioner Caddigan commented that stimulus funds could be forthcoming and the 2% motor fuels tax could increase. She recommended taking a hard look at the budget in 2010 and again in 2011 moving forward with the proposed budget and in 2011 working with Prince William County staff and the Board of County Supervisors to determine what can be improved.

Vice Chairman Way read a statement for the record that he provided to the Manassas City Council: "In my judgment the budget is an excellent balance designed to permit operations of the VRE under its established guidelines including maintenance of a reserve fund, having fares cover about 55% of operating costs, sustaining necessary equipment maintenance, and giving local jurisdictions a small 5% reduction in subsidy demands in FY2010." He elaborated that the VRE budget is well balanced and can cope with variances. PRTC's budget problems need to be addressed, but "not on the back of the VRE budget".

Based on the answer to Commissioner Nohe's procedural question, Commissioner Milde proposed an amended resolution embodying his earlier suggestions, namely: 1) strike the \$2.65/gallon projected diesel fuel cost and insert \$2.50/gallon, and 2) strike a 6% fare increase in July and insert 8%. Commissioner Ellis seconded.

Chairman Jones inquired about the impact on the overall budget by striking and inserting the two changes proposed by Stafford and Fredericksburg. Mr. Zehner explained that reducing the fuel cost to \$2.50/gallon would reduce the required local subsidy by \$230,000 and changing the 6% fare increase to 8% would reduce the required local subsidy by another \$500,000.

Vice Chairman Way observed that the fuel-related proposed change is a change to a forecast rather than an actuality and asked what will happen if PRTC adopts the "strike and insert motion" and NVTC approves the budget as presented. Commissioner Nohe noted that, in his opinion, the NVTC Board will not accept the "strike and insert" motion.

There was no further discussion on the motion. (MILDE\ELLIS AYE, WITH MAJORITY VOTE NAY) Chairman Jones noted that the "motion" failed.

Returning to the original motion, Chairman Jones called the question. (JENKINS\CADDIGAN, WITH MAJORITY VOTE AYE; ELLIS\MILDE\SCHWARTZ NAY) Chairman Jones noted that the "motion" carries.

RES 09-01-09 D. Extend Amended Operating/Access Agreement with CSXT.
[VRE\CSXT]

Commissioner Jenkins moved, with a second by Commissioner Caddigan, to execute an extension of the existing Amended Operating/Access Agreement with CSXT to July 31, 2009. There was no discussion on the motion. (JENKINS\CADDIGAN, UNANIMOUS)

RES 09-01-10 E. Extend Amended Operating/Access Agreement with Norfolk
[VRE\NS] Southern (NS).

Commissioner Jenkins moved, with a second by Commissioner Caddigan, to execute an extension of the Amended Operating/Access Agreement with Norfolk Southern through July 31, 2009. There was no discussion on the motion. (JENKINS\CADDIGAN, UNANIMOUS)

11. CHAIRMAN'S TIME

RES 09-01-11 A. Nomination for PRTC Executive Committee and the VRE
[PRTC\Nominations] Operations Board Appointments in 2009.

Commissioner Caddigan moved, with a second by Commissioner Lingamfelter, to approve the appointments for 2009 as recommended by the Nominating Committee:

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| Chairman | Michael May, Prince William County |
| Vice Chairman | Jonathan Way, City of Manassas |
| Secretary | Matthew Kelly, City of Fredericksburg |
| Treasurer | Paul Milde, Stafford County |
| Immediate Past Chairman | Frank Jones, City of Manassas Park |

Commissioner Milde reminded the Commission that the Chairmanship was slated for the City of Fredericksburg who voluntarily assented to the Chairmanship being assumed by Prince William County.

There was no discussion on the motion. (CADDIGAN\LINGAMFELTER, UNANIMOUS)

12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S TIME

[PRTC\Info] A. Executive Director's Report.

Mr. Harf reported that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has approved categorical exclusion for the northerly segment of the HOT Lanes Project meaning that the National Environmental Policy Act has been satisfied. The only remaining hurdles for the project to commence are the design exceptions that the FHWA is required to approve and securing the financing arrangements.

Chairman Jones requested that a synopsis of the PRTC bus service and VRE train service (\$25.00 one-time specific pass) that will be provided in support of the region on January 20th (Inauguration Day) be furnished to the member jurisdictions for posting to their prospective websites.

Mr. Marx noted that PRTC will provide bus service from park and ride lots close to the I-95 and I-66 interstates to the Franconia-Springfield and West Falls Church Metro Stations operating continuous back/forth service, a limited amount of mid-day service, and frequent evening service. Commissioner Hill clarified that the original plan included 10,000 charter church and school buses to park at Metro Stations for passengers to utilize the MetroRail. The District of Columbia decided to accommodate all of these buses which freed up significant capacity on MetroRail. Thus a decision was made that outside operators would provide service to the Metro Stations because they can operate more runs and carry more people versus traveling into the District.

[PRTC\Action **B. Action Items:**
Items]

- RES 09-01-12
[PRTC\SmartMaps]
1. Annual Authorization for Bus Schedule and Stop Display Inserts Using On-Call Consultant (SmartMaps).

Commissioner Caddigan moved, with a second by Commissioner Milde, to authorize management to incur costs associated with printed schedule and bus stop information display production of as much as \$430,000, which includes a 20% contingency allowance, to avert the need for recurring Commission actions for this routine type of work. There was no discussion on the motion. (CADDIGAN\MILDE, UNANIMOUS)

- RES 09-01-13
[PRTC\First Transit]
2. Authorization to Execute Change Order No. 11
Related to PRTC-First Transit Contract.

Commissioner Jenkins moved, with a second by Commissioner May, to adopt the revised incentive range as proposed and authorized the PRTC Executive Director to draft and execute Change Order No. 11 to the PRTC-First Transit Contract containing the approved changes. There was no discussion on the motion. (JENKINS\MAY, UNANIMOUS)

- RES 09-01-14
[PRTC\CTB]
3. Approval of Testimony for the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Public Hearing on Proposed Six-Year Plan.

Mr. Harf observed that management debated whether the proposed testimony to the CTB should take exception to the initiation of a new intercity rail subsidization program at the same time the state is curtailing assistance for traditional transit services. In the end, management concluded that the arguments for not opposing this initiative are more compelling than the arguments otherwise, though he said it is important for the Commission to be aware of both.

Commissioner Caddigan moved, with a second by Commissioner Milde, to approve the testimony prepared for delivery to the Commonwealth Transportation Board on January 13, 2009 public hearing. There was no discussion on the motion. (CADDIGAN\MILDE, WITH MAJORITY VOTE AYE; LINGAMFELTER ABSTAINED)

[PRTC\Info]

C. Information Items:

1. PRTC Service Performance Reports. There were no comments.
2. PRTC Budget-to-Actual Comparison. There were no comments.
3. Fleet Maintenance Audit. There were no comments.
4. Communications:
 - a. Related to Funding. There were no comments.
 - b. Related to Jurisdiction. There were no comments.
 - c. General Interest. There were no comments.

13. OTHER BUSINESS/COMMISSIONERS' TIME

On behalf of the Commission, Commissioner Caddigan expressed appreciation to Chairman Jones for his outstanding service as Chairman during the calendar year 2008.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, newly appointed Chairman May adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: PRTC Transit Center
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Woodbridge, VA 22192-6811
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